

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 10 SHOULD READ 9)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN SPACE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS WITH
NASA

REF: BUCHAREST 999

1. SUBJECT DISCUSSIONS CONCLUDED MARCH 25 ON POSITIVE NOTE WITH ROMANIANS INVITING NASA DELEGATION TO BUCHAREST IN FALL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. ROMANIAN DELEGATION MET BRIEFLY WITH NASA ADMINISTRATOR FLETCHER, HELD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FRUTKIN AND VARIOUS PROGRAM OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, DELEGATION TOURED NASA'S GODDARD, JET PROPULSION AND JOHNSON SPACE CENTERS, EROS DATA CENTER AT SIOUX FALLS, NOAA SUITLAND, AND USGS RESTON. SPATARU CLEARLY IMPRESSED AND APPRECIATIVE. FRUTKIN WILL CONFIRM RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS IN LETTER TO SPATARU (COPY TO EMBASSY). SUMMARY OF NASA RESPONSES TO SPATARU FOLLOWS:

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2. ROMANIAN PROPOSALS FOR LUNAR SAMPLE ANALYSIS EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR SELECTION. ROMANIANS SHOULD NOW SUBMIT PROPOSALS PER GUIDELINES PROVIDED.

3. IN SPACECRAFT INSTRUMENTATION AREA, ROMANIAN PROPOSALS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS (RATHER THAN USE OF HARDWARE WITHOUT INDICATED SCIENTIFIC PURPOSE). ROMANIANS INVITED TO PROPOSE EXPERIMENTS FOR FLIGHT ON SHUTTLE-BORNE SPACELAB IN 1980'S. IN INTERIM, ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS SHOULD

MEET WITH US SPECIALISTS TO DISCUSS CURRENT SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS AND INSTRUMENTATION. NASA THEN HAPPY RECEIVE ROMANIAN PROPOSALS FOR FLIGHT-TESTING EXPERIMENTS ON SOUNDING ROCKETS OR BALLOONS PRIOR TO SPACELAB FLIGHTS.

4. IN EARTH-RESOURCE SENSING (ERS) AREA, OPRESCU PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR LANDSAT PROGRAM. NASA WILLING (A) ASSIST AS APPROPRIATE ROMANIAN EFFORTS BUY US INFRARED FILM FOR AIRCRAFT ERS SURVEYS IN CONNECTION OPRESCU INVESTIGATION, (B) PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON INSTRUMENTATION FOR AIRCRAFT ERS PROGRAM, AND (C) MAKE SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS IN BUCHAREST WHEN POSSIBLE IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER TRAVEL. ROMANIANS TO DETAIL THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR A AND B. ROMANIANS INVITED TO CONTACT ITALIAN ERS GROUND STATION SOON ABLE PROVIDE DATA ON ROMANIA. UNDER AGREEMENT WITH NASA, ITALIANS OBLIGATED PROVIDE DATA AT COST. ROMANIANS INTENDING UTILIZE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT EROS DATA CENTER SIOUX FALLS IN SEPTEMBER.

5. IN SOLAR ENERGY AREA, ROMANIAN PROPOSAL IS IN DIRECTION NOT BEING PURSUED BY NASA. NASA WILLING DISCUSS BUT LITTLE PROSPECT FOR COOPERATION. DITTO AERONAUTICAL PROPOSALS. NASA WILLING TALK BUT DOES NOT GIVE PRIORITY IN ITS PROGRAMS TO WORK ROMANIA PROPOSES.

6. IN METEOROLOGY AREA, NASA DISTINGUISHED MISSILE DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH USING ROCKETS, EXPRESSED DISINTEREST IN FORMER, INTEREST IN LATTER. EXPLAINED COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND PROVIDED EXAMPLES OF AGREEMENTS. NASA SAID IT WILL SEEK TO HELP RE NECESSARY
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EQUIPMENT IN CONTEXT OF COOPERATIVE PROJECT WITH MUTUAL INTEREST AND INPUTS. INITIATIVE LEFT WITH ROMANIANS TO MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS.

7. IN RESPONSE REPEATED INQUIRIES RE ROMANIAN ASTRONAUT TRAINING, NASA EXPLAINED THAT SPACELAB WILL AFFORD FOREIGN ASTRONAUTS OPPORTUNITIES TO FLY IN CONNECTION WITH MONITORING OR CONDUCT OF EXPERIMENTS WHICH ROMANIANS

ENCOURAGED TO PROPOSE.

8. NASA INFORMED DELEGATION THAT ANYTHING RELATING TO
MILITARY APPLICATIONS WAS MATTER FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND NOT NASA.

9. ROMANIANS GIVEN AMPLE DOCUMENTATION. FURTHER MATERIAL
WILL FOLLOW THROUGH EMBASSY WHEN AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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